

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated September 1, 2009 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Applicants appreciate and thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 14-16, 18, and 19 are allowed, and claims 2-7 and 9-13 contain allowable subject matter. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 20 are amended, and claims 8 and 17 were previously canceled. Accordingly, claims 1-7, 9-16, and 18-20 are pending. For reasons as discussed below, reexamination and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as not being supported by the written description requirement. Claims 1 and 20 have been amended to obviate the rejection. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited. If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911.

Dated: November 30, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

By _____

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